Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This is the current listing of the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for staggercasting, comprising the steps of:

encoding a first signal representing content;

encoding a second signal representing the content using encoding relatively more robust than the encoding of the first encoded content representative signal;

generating a composite signal comprising the first and second encoded signals by multiplexing the first and second encoded signals in the time domain,

wherein one of the first and second encoded signals is delayed with respect to the other encoded signal; and

decoding the undelayed encoded signal to reproduce the content if an error is detected in the composite signal, and decoding the delayed encoded signal is to reproduce the content otherwise.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of encoding the first and the second content representative signal comprise source encoding the content representative signal, system encoding the source encoded content representative signal and channel encoding the system and source encoded content representative signal.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein:

the step of channel encoding the first content representative signal comprises the step of modulating the source and system encoded content representative signal using 8-VSB modulation.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein:

the step of source encoding the first content representative signal comprises the step of encoding the content representative signal using MPEG 2 encoding; and

the step of system encoding the first content representative signal comprises the step of packetizing the source encoded content representative signal using MPEG 2 format packets.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein:

the step of channel encoding the second content representative signal comprises the step of modulating the source and system encoded content representative signal using one of 4-VSB or 2-VSB modulation.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein:

the step of source encoding the second content representative signal comprises the step of encoding the content representative signal using JVT encoding; and

the step of system encoding the second content representative signal comprises the step of packetizing the source encoded content representative signal using MPEG 2 format packets.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein:

 the step of encoding the first content representative signal comprises generating a first encoded signal which is backwards compatible; and

the step of generating a composite signal comprises the step of delaying the second encoded signal with respect to the first encoded signal.

8. (Currently amended) A staggercasting receiver, comprising:

an input terminal capable of receiving a composite signal comprising a first encoded signal representing content and a second encoded signal representing the content using encoding relatively more robust than the encoding of the first encoded content representative signal, wherein the first encoded signal is delayed with respect to the second encoded signal, and the first encoded signal and the second encoded signal are multiplexed in the time domain;

a demultiplexer, coupled to the input terminal, for extracting a received first encoded signal and a received second encoded signal, and for generating a signal indicating an error in the composite signal;

a decoder, coupled to the demultiplexer and responsive to the error signal, for decoding the received second encoded signal if an error is detected in the composite signal and decoding the received first delayed encoded signal otherwise.

9. (Original) The receiver of claim 8 wherein the decoder comprises a channel decoder, responsive to the received first encoded signal, for demodulating the received first encoded signal using 8-VSB demodulation.

10. (Original) The receiver of claim 9 wherein: the decoder further comprises:

a system decoder, coupled to the channel decoder, for depacketizing the channel decoded received first encoded signal using an MPEG 2 packet format; and

a source decoder, coupled to the system decoder, for decoding the channel and system decoded received first encoded signal using MPEG 2 decoding.

11. (Original) The receiver of claim 8 wherein the decoder comprises a channel decoder, responsive to the received second encoded signal, for demodulating the received second encoded signal using one of 4-VSB or 2-VSB demodulation.

12. (Original) The receiver of claim 9 wherein: the decoder further comprises:

a system decoder, coupled to the channel decoder, for depacketizing the channel decoded received second encoded signal using MPEG 2 packet format; and

a source decoder, coupled to the system decoder, for decoding the channel and system decoded received second encoded signal using JVT decoding.

13. (Currently amended) A method for processing a staggercasted signal comprising the steps of:

receiving a composite signal comprising a first encoded signal representing content and a second encoded signal representing the content using encoding relatively more robust than the encoding of the first encoded content representative signal, wherein the first encoded signal is delayed with respect to the second encoded signal, and the first encoded signal and the second encoded signal are multiplexed in the time domain;

extracting a received first encoded signal and a received second encoded signal,

generating a signal indicating an error in the composite signal;

decoding the received second encoded signal if an error is detected in the composite signal, and

decoding the received first delayed encoded signal otherwise.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim ~~12~~13, wherein said encoded first and second signals are channel encoded.